the Government of Bombay created a Labour Office and in 1922 the Factory Act was amended. But by 1924 the full effects of the industrial depression began to be felt in India. In 1923 the Ahmedabad mill-owners made the first organised attempt at a general wage-cut, and this resulted in the largest strike that had occurred in that city. It lasted two months and involved 45,000 workpeople. In 1924 the Bombay mill-owners decided to withdraw the annual wage bonus which they had been paying since 1918. The workers struck and stayed out for three months. They succeeded in maintaining the existing rates after a further strike in the following year.

In 1926 the Government passed a Trade Union Act, which compelled all unions to register and to submit their accounts. This Act was amended in 1928. At the same time it is worth pointing out that up to this time a trade union was liable to be prosecuted; the Act at least recognised their existence. 1928 saw a great wave of strikes all over the country: railwaymen on different lines, steel-workers, workers in jute and textiles.

But it was in 1929 that the workers of India attained a degree of militancy hitherto unknown. The influence of the Left Wing had been growing. The decision of the owners to "rationalise[59] had provoked a strike in Bombay in 1928 which led to the growth of the Girni Kamgar (Red) Union. The strike actually lasted for six months and resulted in the appointment of the Fawcett Committee to enquire into the whole question of rationalisation. During this struggle the Union recruited as many 35,65,000 members. Revolu-tionary slogans began to appear on the workers' banners. It was a great moral victory for the Left. But the Government was greatly alarmed. The Trades Disputes Act penalised sympathetic strikes and those "designed to coerce the Government.[3]' It forbade the transference of money